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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/699,167	10/31/2003	Thomas Becker	60136.010800	9601

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EXAMINER

GALL, LLOYD A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3676

DATE MAILED: 10/18/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/699,167

Applicant(s)

BECKER, THOMAS

Examiner

Lloyd A. Gall

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 August 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 5-9, 14, 20 and 21 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 10-13 and 15-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 04 June 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

The substitute specification filed on August 3, 2005 is approved for entry.

In view of further consideration, claims 6-9 also are regarded as not reading on the elected embodiment of figure 1, and are also withdrawn from further consideration.

Claims 1, 10, 12 and 13 are objected to because of the following informalities: In claim 1, line 3, it is not clear whether "metal/ceramic" is referring to metal and ceramic, or metal or ceramic. Claim 10 does not further limit claim 1 now. Claims 12 and 13 also do not further limit claim 1 now. Appropriate correction is required.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-4, 10-13 and 15-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the GB reference (2680 in view of Brown (990) or Nail, and Schultz. The GB reference teaches a hoop lock which is capable of being used in locking a two-wheel vehicle, including a lock section 11 having a metal jacket 19, a core matrix 16 of metal (page 1, line 39), elongate reinforcement elements 22 formed of hard particles 23 and a binder 24 of metal (page 2, line 71), wherein the reinforcement elements are arranged parallel to one another, and have a diameter (from the left to the right side in

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fig. 8) of approximately one-third of the diameter of the shackle 11. Brown teaches throughout the specification and in paragraph 0012, line 11, a ceramic material 2 used as a reinforcement material in a lock, as does Nail teach a ceramic material 19 used in a lock to protect the components of the lock. Schultz teaches round and axially offset reinforcement elements (F). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to substitute ceramic material for the particles 23 in the elongate reinforcement elements 22 of the GB reference, in view of the teaching of either Brown or Nail, the motivation being to optimize the strength of the shackle of the GB reference, and to increase its resistance to cutting tools. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the elements 22 of the GB reference, such that they include round, axially offset elements, in view of the teaching of Schultz, the motivation being to optimize their tool cutting resistance. The properties of claims 16-18 are regarded as obvious, since it has been held that discovering an optimum value of a result effective variable involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Boesch*, 617 F.2d 272, 205 USPQ 215 (CCPA 1980).

Applicant's arguments filed August 3, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. In response to applicant's remarks, it is submitted that the entire element 22 of the GB reference is properly relied upon as teaching elongate reinforcement elements. Substituting ceramic material for the hard particles 23 for the GB reference in view of Brown or Nail teaches all of the claimed structure. The Brown and Nail references have not been relied upon by themselves for teaching parallel reinforcement elements.

In response to applicant's remarks in the last paragraph of page 7, it is resubmitted that the cylindrical members of Schultz are axially offset relative to numerous other cylindrical members in another row. Further, there is no such "no gap" limitations in the claims to preclude use of the Schultz reference.

In response to the second full paragraph on page 8 of the remarks, the relevance of these two references is not apparent from the International Preliminary Examination Report which was filed. Further clarification is required.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Goldstein (272) in fig. 3 also teaches parallel, axially spaced reinforcement elements 10.

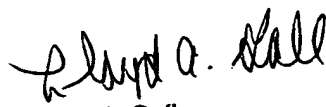
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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lloyd A. Gall whose telephone number is 571-272-7056. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Glessner can be reached on 571-272-6843. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

LG LG
October 14, 2005


Lloyd A. Gall
Primary Examiner